



# *Northeast Newsletter*

Fall 06

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## ***NORTHEAST DISTRICT FATALITIES***

### **2<sup>ND</sup> NORTHEAST DISTRICT MINE FATALITY -**

On June 12, 2006, a 39-year-old plant operator, with 14 months experience, was fatally injured at a crushed stone operation. The victim was starting to repair a hydraulic line on a front-end loader that was parked outside of the shop. He was underneath the raised boom, loosening a hydraulic connection, when the boom arms fell, pinning him against the frame.



### **Best Practices**

- Stop, Look, Analyze, and Manage (SLAM) each task to identify all potential hazards before performing maintenance work. Practice safe work habits during the entire task.

- Consult and follow the manufacturer's recommended safe work procedures for the maintenance task.
- Train miners in safe work procedures before beginning repairs.
- Securely block equipment against all hazardous motion at all times while performing maintenance work.
- Never travel or work under a raised loader bucket.
- Never loosen hydraulic hoses or components without first determining if they may be holding something up or trapping pressure.

This is the 14<sup>th</sup> fatality reported in calendar year 2006 in the metal and nonmetal mining industries. As of this date in 2005, there were 14 fatalities reported in these industries. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Falling Material fatality in 2006. There were two Falling Material fatalities in the same period in 2005.

### **3<sup>RD</sup> NORTHEAST DISTRICT MINE FATALITY -**

On July 27, 2006, a 25-year-old contractor laborer, with 2 years experience, was fatally injured at a crushed stone operation. The victim was using a gasoline-powered weed trimmer, equipped with a circular steel blade, to cut weeds and brush near a power pole when he struck the guy wire for the pole. The blade severed the guy wire, causing it to contact the energized supply conductors on the pole mounted transformer and electrocuted him.



### Best Practices

- Ensure that guy wires from power poles are securely connected to the system ground or are provided with the proper number of insulators installed near the pole end.
- Examine the area for any potential hazards before trimming weeds and brush.

This is the 18<sup>th</sup> fatality reported in calendar year 2006 in the metal and nonmetal mining industries. As of this date in 2005, there were 18 fatalities reported in these industries. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Electrical fatality in 2006. There were three Electrical fatalities in the same period in 2005.

### National MNM Year to date Fatalities as of 09/06/06

<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
24	17	18	22	20

### 4<sup>TH</sup> NORTHEAST DISTRICT MINE FATALITY

On August 29, 2006, at a stone quarry in Pennsylvania, a seven person blacktop crew was preparing an area behind the mine shop for paving. The area was congested with equipment and foot traffic. The blacktop supervisor was fatally injured when he was struck by a front-end loader passing through the area. The front-end loader was carrying a full bucket of material approximately three feet off the ground.



This is the 20<sup>th</sup> fatality reported in calendar year 2006 in the metal and nonmetal mining industry.

NATIONAL MNM FATALITIES	2006	
	Under Ground	Surface
ELECTRICAL	0	4
FALL/SLIDE MATERIAL	0	2
FALL OF FACE/RIB/HIGHWALL	0	1
POWERED HAULAGE	1	6
MACHINERY	0	3
SLIP/FALL OF PERSON		3
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	1	19

## **The Bird Flu is soaring our way. Be prepared and don't let the facts fly by you**

### **What is Bird Flu?**

Avian flu is any flu caused by a virus adapted to birds. It is also called bird flu, avian influenza and bird influenza. There are only three known A subtypes of influenza viruses (H1N1, H1N2, and H3N2) currently circulating among humans. H1N1 being the most common amongst humans.

### **Who is susceptible to the Bird Flu?**

Birds are most susceptible to the virus but it is transferable to humans with contact to infected poultry (domesticated chicken, ducks, and turkeys) or surfaces contaminated with secretion/excretions from infected birds. Other animals such as dogs, cats and horses are also susceptible.

### **Where did it come from?**

It was first identified in Italy in the early 1900s and is now known to exist

worldwide. Since 2003, a growing number of human H5N1 cases have been reported in Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam.

### **When can we expect to be affected in the United States?**

There is no way to tell exactly when but because Alaska is at the crossroads of bird migration flyways, scientists believe the strain of highly pathogenic H5N1 currently affecting Southeast Asia would most likely arrive there if it spread to North America via migratory birds.

### **Why should we prepare?**

Most of these cases are all believed to have been caused by exposure to infected poultry. So far, the spread of H5N1 virus from person to person has been limited and has not continued beyond one person. Nonetheless, because all influenza viruses have the ability to change, scientists are concerned that H5N1 virus one day could be able to infect humans and spread easily from one person to another.

### **How can we limit the spread of germs and prevent infection?**

Take common-sense steps to limit the spread of germs. Make good hygiene a habit and teach your children.

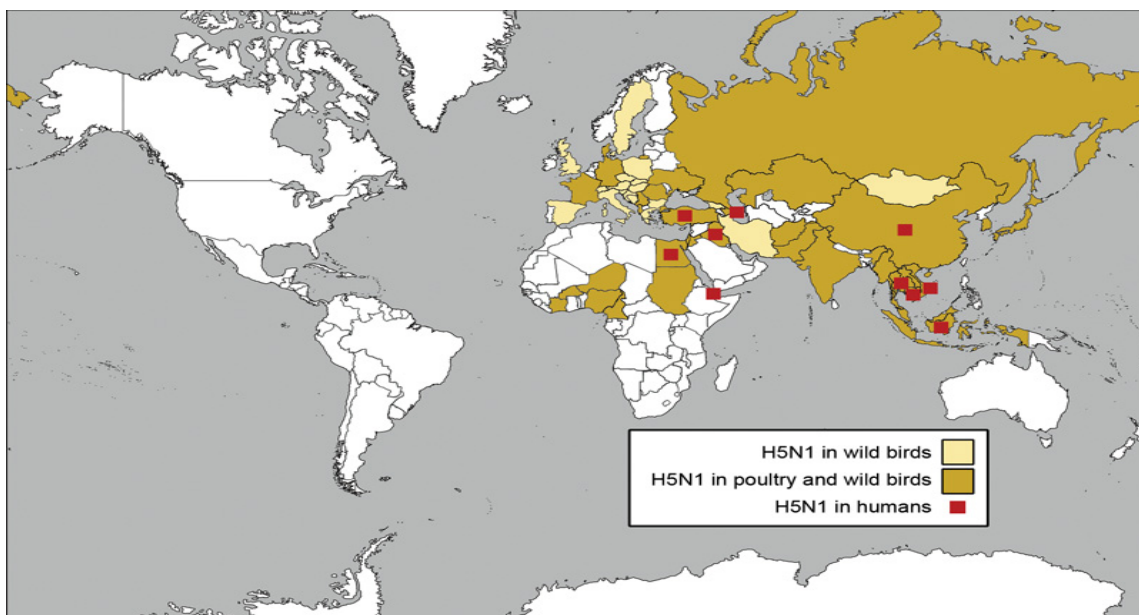
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in a waste basket.
- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve if you don't have a tissue.
- Clean hands after coughing or sneezing. Use soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Stay at home if you are sick.

Check out this Government web site for more information on the bird flu.

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>

*Article submitted by: Maria Cummings-MSHA-Manchester, New Hampshire Field Office*

## **Nations With Confirmed Cases H5N1 Avian Influenza (July 7, 2006)**



<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/map.html>



# Hard Hat Facts



## When do my employees need head protection?

You must provide head protection for your employees if:  
Objects might fall from above and strike them on the head;  
They might bump their heads against fixed objects, such as exposed pipes or beams; or  
They work near exposed electrical conductors.

## What should I look for in head protection?

In general, protective helmets, or hard hats, should  
Resist penetration by objects,  
Absorb the shock of a blow,  
Be water resistant and slow burning, and  
Come with instructions explaining proper adjustment and replacement of the suspension and headband.  
Hard hats require a hard outer shell and a shock-absorbing lining. The lining should incorporate a head band and straps that suspend the shell from 1 to 1 1/4 inches (2.54 cm to 3.18 cm) away from the user's head. This design provides shock absorption during impact and ventilation during wear.  
As with devices designed to protect eyes, the design, construction, testing, and use of protective helmets must meet standards established by ANSI. Protective helmets purchased after July 5, 1994, must comply with ANSI Z89.1-1986,(7) whereas, those purchased before this date must meet the ANSI Z89.1-1969 standard.

Figure 2. Hard Hat



## What types of head protection are available?

### Hard hats are divided into three industrial classes:

**Class A.** These helmets are for general service. They provide good impact protection but limited voltage protection. They are used mainly in mining, building construction, shipbuilding, lumbering, and manufacturing.

**Class B.** Choose Class B helmets if your employees are engaged in electrical work. They protect against falling objects and high-voltage shock and burns.

**Class C.** Designed for comfort, these light-weight helmets offer limited protection. They protect workers from bumping against fixed objects but do not protect against falling objects or electric shock.

Look at the inside of any protective helmet you are considering for your employees, and you should see a label showing the manufacturer's name, the ANSI standard it meets, and its class. Figure 2 shows the basic design of hard hats.

## How do I choose the correct protective helmets from among the different types?

Each kind of protective helmet is designed to protect against specific hazards. By completing the hazard assessment outlined above, you will identify the specific workplace hazards that pose a threat to your employee's head.

## I have purchased new hard hats that meet the ANSI requirements. Have I fulfilled my responsibility to protect my employees' heads?

No. Issuing appropriate head protection to employees is a major first step, but you must make sure that the hard hats continue to provide sufficient protection to your employees. Do this by training your employees in the proper use and maintenance of hard hats including daily inspection of them. If your employees identify any of the following defects, remove the hard hats from service:

The suspension system shows signs of deterioration such as:

- Cracking
- Tearing
- Fraying

The suspension system no longer holds the shell from 1 inch to 1 1/4 inches (2.54cm - 3.18cm) away from the employee's head. The brim or shell is cracked, perforated, or deformed. The brim or shell shows signs of exposure to heat, chemicals, ultraviolet light, or other radiation. Such signs include:

- Loss of surface gloss
- Chalking
- Flaking (a sign of advanced deterioration)

## Could employees wearing hard hats and working at elevations create a potential hazard for the employees working below?

To protect employees working below, you must provide chin straps for the protective helmets worn by employees working at higher elevations, whether in an aerial lift or at the edge of a

pit. The chin straps should be designed to prevent the hard hats from being bumped off the employees' heads.

**How do I make sure that the hard hats I provide will be kept in good condition?**

- You must train your employees to maintain and care for the head protection. Your training communicates the importance of wearing head protection and taking proper care of it. Important information you will want to consider when training employees on how to care for their hard hats includes the following:
- Paints, paint thinners, and some cleaning agents can weaken the shell of the hard hat and may eliminate electrical resistance. Consult the helmet manufacturer for information on the effects of paint and cleaning materials on their hard hats. Keep in mind that paint and stickers can also hide signs of deterioration in the hard hat shell. Limit their use.
- Ultraviolet light and extreme heat, such as that generated by sunlight, can reduce the strength of the hard hats. Therefore, employees should not store or transport hard hats on the rear-window shelves of automobiles or otherwise in direct sunlight.

**Also, instruct employees to clean the protective helmets periodically by:**

- Immersing for one minute in hot (approximately 140o F, or 60o C) water and detergent,
- Scrubbing, and
- Rinsing in clear hot water.

**Injuries to the head are  
very serious**

**so use your Head  
and wear your hard hat.**

**It might just  
save your life today...**

<http://www.hardhats.4ursafety.com/hard-hat-articles.html>

## **Job Fairs NE District MNM**

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is looking for motivated professionals committed to ensuring the health and safety of our Nation's miners. If that describes you, attend one of our on-site employment screenings held throughout the United States to be considered for a Mine Safety and Health Inspector position. Upon successful completion of math and writing tests, you will be interviewed by MSHA managers and supervisors for possible employment opportunities. If you are selected, you will be hired as a Federal Career Intern and placed in a formal training program designed to prepare you for a career as a Mine Safety and Health Inspector. For information on MSHA Inspector positions, including physical and testing requirements and the Federal Career Intern Program and jobs fairs **please check:** <http://www.msha.gov>

**Job fairs will be held at:**

**Syracuse, NY ----November 4-5  
Hagerstown MD ----November 7-8**



## **MSHA's Digital Library**

MSHA's Technical Information Center and Library (TIC&L) is currently laying the groundwork for a Digital Library that will provide organized access to the library's digital collections related to mine health and safety. This online resource will preserve mining history by digitizing relevant historical materials such as books, oral histories, manuscripts, photographs, newspapers, and audio and video clips. The first two collections to be displayed online will be the Fatal Archives composed of the library's fatal records and investigation reports dating back to 1840 and the U.S. Bureau of Mines photograph collection of historical mining methods and people.

<http://www.msha.gov/training/library/digitallibrary.asp>

# National Fire Prevention Week

October 8-14

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871



While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, and roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

<http://www.nfpa.org/index.asp>

**Let's do our part in fire prevention and make sure all fire extinguishers are checked and available for use.**



Mining and mineral processing facilities represent significant fire and explosion exposures to both personnel and production equipment and buildings.

## A Quick Guide to Fire Extinguishing Agents

AGENT	Class of Fire			
	A	B	C	K
Multi-Purpose	⊗	⊗	⊗	
Regular		⊗	⊗	
Purple K		⊗	⊗	
Carbon Dioxide		⊗	⊗	
Wet Chemical				⊗
Halotron	⊗	⊗	⊗	
Water	⊗			
Foam	⊗	⊗		

## Fire Classifications

### Class A

Class A fires involve common combustibles such as wood, paper cloth, rubber, trash and plastics. They are common in typical commercial and home settings, but can occur anywhere these types of materials are found

### Class B

Class B fires involve flammable liquids', gases, solvents, oil, gasoline, paint, lacquers, tars and other synthetic or oil-based products. Class B fires often spread rapidly and , unless properly secured can reflash after the flames are extinguished.

### Class C

Class C fires involve energized electrical equipment such as wiring, controls, motors, data processing panels or appliances. They can be caused by a spark, power surge or short circuit and typically occur in locations that are difficult to reach and see.

### Class K

Class K fires involve combustible cooking media such as oils and grease commonly found in commercial kitchens. The new cooking media formulations used for commercial food preparation require a special wet chemical extinguishing agent that is specially suited for extinguishing and suppressing these extremely hot fires that have the ability to reflash.

For copies

<http://www.msha.gov/DISTRICT/MNM/NEDIST/NEHOME.HTM>

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